



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE
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FORMER CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR
COHEN FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARGED WITH FILING
FALSE FINANCIAL REPORT WITH FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and FBI Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Office Kenneth W. Kaiser, report that Jesse D. Burchfield has been charged with causing false statements to be made to the Federal Election Commission in connection with Burton J. Cohen's 2004 U.S. Senate campaign. Burchfield is 32 years-old and currently resides in Sacramento, California.

A criminal information filed today in United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire, charges Burchfield with causing materially false financial statements to be filed with the Federal Election Commission. The charge alleges that as Cohen's campaign manager from January 2003, through June 7, 2004, Burchfield created and periodically filed Reports of Receipts and Disbursements with the Federal Election Commission on behalf of the campaign. Federal law requires that every campaign committee for a United States Senate seat periodically file these reports, which detail, among other things, expenditures and the amount of cash the campaign has on hand.

Burchfield allegedly understated the campaign's expenses and overstated the amount of cash the campaign had available in every report he caused to be filed on the campaign's behalf. Burchfield is specifically charged with understating the campaign's expenses and overstating by about \$300,000 the amount of cash the campaign had on hand in the last report he filed for the campaign on or about April 26, 2004.

If convicted, Burchfield faces a maximum prison term of 5 years and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark S. Zuckerman

A criminal information is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all criminal cases, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.